November, 2002 and were conducted according to well rehearsed and established procedures. A small quantity of mines still remain unaccounted for due to prolonged deployment, mines drifting due to heavy rains, rodents shifting the mines and growth of dense vegetation around the area. For such unrecovered mines, precautionary measures are taken, like blasting of mines by mechanized equipment and issuing precautionary advice to landowners before handing over the land back to the owners.

(b) to (d) De-mining operations have been completed and land in all areas, except those required for operational reasons, have been handed back to the owners.

IT policy of HAL

992. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has a well formulated IT policy in place;

(b) whether this policy covers crucial and sensitive aspects of threat perceptions and safety measures access to source codes, disaster recovery etc.; and

(c) the other measures being planned to strengthen the IT infrastructure of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE) (a) and (b) The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has formulated a Information Technology (IT) plan. The plan takes into account different aspects concerning with safety and security of the system.

(c) HAL reviews its requirements and takes appropriate measures to strengthen the IT infrastructure.

Setting up of plastic cards unit by BEL

993. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Ltd. had tied up with a French company

in 2002 for transfer of technology for setting up a 2.40 crores/per year plastic cards unit under 100 per cent buy-back arrangement for five years;

(b) whether the BEL has so far invested more than Rs. 4.5 crores in this project;

(c) what is the share of the French company towards capital of the project; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has invested approximately Rs. 3.76 crores by way of procurement of capital equipment, raw-material, consumables and spares in this project.

(c) The share of the French company in this project by way of supply of equipment is USD 742,500 as per the agreement.

(d) Implementation for the project is delayed due to material default by the french company M/s Unival. BEL has invoked the Arbitration clause in the agreement for material breach of the agreement by M/s Unival.

Self-sufficiency by Indian Armed Forces

994. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the occasion of celebration of Taknik Diwas by Defence Research and Development Organisation Prime Minister is reported to have stated that the Indian Armed Forces will have to attain self-sufficiency;

(b) what is the current status of the Indian Armed Forces *vis-a-vis* self-sufficiency; and

(c) whether the goal can be achieved in a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister stated that self-reliant military is essential for our strategic autonomy.